



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | St Louis, Missouri                   | <b>Accident Number:</b> | DFW08CA185  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | July 14, 2008, 12:20 Local           | <b>Registration:</b>    | N134JW      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Stits Aircraft SA3A                  | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Loss of control in flight            | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 Minor     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

The 2,500 hour private pilot was conducting a normal takeoff in a single seat amateur built airplane from the dry 3,120 foot long turf runway and reported that he lost control of the airplane and was unable to climb out of ground effect. The left wing and the nose of the airplane struck the ground, and airplane landed upright. There was substantial damage to the forward firewall, engine mounts, landing gear, and left wing, but only minor injuries to the pilot. The pilot reported he had owned the airplane for 18 years and there was nothing wrong with the engine or with the performance of the airplane. He said he was "just too far behind" the airplane and it "got away" from him because it was "so quick and difficult to control". Weather reported at the time of the accident was 10 miles visibility, with few clouds at 5,000 feet, westerly winds at 5 knots, with a temperature of 87 degrees and dew point of 57degrees.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain control of the airplane during takeoff.

## Findings

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Personnel issues</b> | Aircraft control - Pilot |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Takeoff</b> | Loss of control in flight (Defining event) |
|----------------|--|

### Pilot Information

|                                  |   |  |               |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private   | <b>Age:</b>                              | 77, Male      |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land  | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Single        |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None  | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   |               |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane  | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No            |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | None  | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No            |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 3 Unknown   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | April 1, 1998 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | No  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |               |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 2500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 600 hours (Total, this make and model), 2500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |               |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                               |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Stits Aircraft                | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N134JW          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | SA3A                          | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                               | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 | Yes             |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Experimental (Special)        | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | JW-1            |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tailwheel                     | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 1               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | June 1, 2006 Annual           | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 1000 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |                               | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 680 Hrs as of last inspection | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | Continental     |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Not installed                 | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | C85 Series      |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | Meyer Robert P                | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 85 Horsepower   |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | Robert P. Meyer               | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |   |                  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day              |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | KSTL,618 ft msl                  | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 6 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 12:51 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 79°              |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Few / 5500 ft AGL                | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles         |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                  |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 5 knots /                        | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 270°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30 inches Hg                     | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 31°C / 14°C      |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | ST LOUIS, MO (1H0)               | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None             |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     |                                  | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None             |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  |                                  | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    |                  |

## Airport Information

|                             |                  |                                  |            |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | CREVE COEUR 1H0  | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Grass/turf |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   |                  | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry        |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 25               | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None       |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 3120 ft / 220 ft | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | None       |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |         |                             |                      |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 Minor | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial          |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> |         | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                 |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A     | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                 |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 1 Minor | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 38.726665,-90.508056 |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Latson, Thomas  |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | Lawrence E Sadowski; St Louis FSDO  |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | September 26, 2008  |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>               |   |
| <b>Investigation Class:</b>              | <a href="#">Class</a>   |
| <b>Note:</b>                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.   |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | <a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68443">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68443</a> |

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